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Chairman: Mr. Suazo ..... (Honduras)

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Agenda item 90: Training and research (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (*continued*)

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Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)

Draft biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for the period 2003-2004

Completion of the Committee's work

The meeting was called to order at 3.55 p.m.

Agenda item 84: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.5, L.6, L.10/Rev.1, L.37, L.40, L.73, L.77, L.78 and L.92; A/57/15 (Parts I, II and III), A/56/370 and Add.1)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*)

Draft resolution on international trade and development (A/C.2/57/L.37 and L.76)

1. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.76, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.37, which had been submitted by the Group of 77 and China, made the following revision to draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.76: at the end of paragraph 17, the words "consistent standards of" should be changed to "standards compatible with".

2. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.76, as orally revised, was adopted.*

3. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.37 was withdrawn.*

4. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should take note of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its twenty-eighth executive session (A/57/15 (Part I)), the report on the nineteenth special session (A/57/15 (Part II)) and the report on the forty-ninth session (A/57/15 (Part III)).

5. *It was so decided.*

(b) Commodities (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on commodities (A/C.2/57/L.5 and L.73)

6. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.73, based on informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.5, said that he hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

7. **The Chairman** drew attention to a statement (A/C.2/57/L.78) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.73.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.73 was adopted.*

9. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.5 was withdrawn.*

10. **Mr. Gebert** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, asked whether the draft resolution had programme budget implications.

11. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft resolution did have programme budget implications, in accordance with document A/C.2/57/L.78, which indicated that efforts would be made to seek extrabudgetary contributions for that purpose.

12. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group of 77 and China was pleased that the draft resolution had been adopted by consensus and hoped that full consideration could be given to commodities issues in the General Assembly and the Trade and Development Board. Referring to paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, he urged the Board to do everything possible to meet the request with available resources, and at the same time urged development actors to supplement those resources with voluntary contributions so that the developing countries which depended on commodities could comply with that mandate fully and on time.

(c) Science and technology for development (*continued*)

Draft resolution on science and technology for development (A/C.2/57/L.10/Rev.1)

13. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.10/Rev.1, prepared during informal consultations.

14. **The Chairman** said that Peru and Yugoslavia had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.10/Rev.1.

15. In addition, Angola, the Dominican Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Indonesia and Suriname wished to become sponsors.

16. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Venezuela) said that in the last sentence of the first paragraph of the annex, the word "principles" should be changed to "elements", as agreed earlier.

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

17. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on

United Nations system support for science and technology in Latin America and the Caribbean and the comments of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for coordination contained in document A/56/370 and Add.1.

(d) External debt crisis and development (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on the external debt crisis and development (A/C.2/57/L.6 and L.77)

18. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.77, prepared during informal consultations on the basis of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.6, made the following revisions to the draft resolution: in paragraph 4, the word "*Reiterates*" should be changed to "*Recalls*"; in paragraph 8 (a), after the words "donor countries", the words "and also" should be added; and in paragraph 8 (f), a comma should be added after the words "swaps".

19. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.77, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.40 and L.92; A/57/354)

Draft resolutions on environment and sustainable development (A/C.2/57/L.40 and L.92)

20. **Mr. Kára** (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.92, based on informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.40.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.92 was adopted.*

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.40 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolutions on the preparatory activities for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 (A/C.2/57/L.41 and L.86)

23. **Mr. Kára** (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.86, prepared on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.41, and recommended its adoption.

24. **Ms. Waldvogel** (Switzerland) said that her delegation wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

25. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.86 was adopted.*

26. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.41 was withdrawn.*

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/C.2/57/L.38 and L.83)

27. **Mr. Kára** (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.83, based on informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.38, and recommended its adoption.

28. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Venezuela) drew attention to an error in the Spanish text of the second line of paragraph 8: the word "*lazos*" should be "*plazos*".

29. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.83 was adopted.*

30. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.38 was withdrawn.*

(b) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)

Draft resolution on natural disasters and vulnerability (A/C.2/57/L.22) and draft decision A/C.2/57/L.75.

31. **Mr. Kára** (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft decision A/C.2/57/L.75, adopted ad referendum during informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.22. During informal consultations, the view had prevailed that the issue should remain on the agenda. Nevertheless, it was agreed that during the current year, instead of adopting a resolution, a decision would be adopted.

32. *Draft decision A/C.2/57/L.75 was adopted.*

33. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.22 was withdrawn.*

34. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 87 (b).

(c) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.43

35. **Mr. Kára** (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.90, based on informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.43, and recommended its adoption.

36. **The Chairman** drew attention to the statement (A/C.2/57/L.56) of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.43, and said that the Committee had been informed that the programme budget implications set forth in the statement were not valid for the new draft resolution.

37. **Ms. Serwer** (United States of America) said that her Government was committed to the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to addressing the challenge of climate change in a science-based, cost-effective manner. Paragraph 10 referred to a political declaration made by Heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit. Since then, the United States had made it clear that it would not ratify the Kyoto Protocol or engage in efforts to ensure its entry into force. The United States therefore considered the reference in paragraph 10 to be historical in nature, and to have been overtaken by changed policies and circumstances. It noted that the more recent declaration made at the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change reflected the current consensus for advancing progress.

38. **The Chairman** suggested that draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.90 should be adopted.

39. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.90 was adopted.*

40. **Mr. Mizukami** (Japan) said that Japan supported the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.90. However, he wished to make a statement about paragraph 8. He also wished to note his delegation's position on paragraph 8 of the original text. It was Japan's understanding that the deletion of that paragraph did not mean that the United Nations would not defray the conference servicing costs relating to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

41. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.43 was withdrawn.*

42. **Mr. Gebert** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.90, and recalled the statement made in that respect during the debate on agenda item 87 (c).

43. **Mr. Gupta** (Canada) said that it was Canada's understanding that the deletion of paragraph 8 of the original text did not mean that the United Nations would not defray the conference servicing costs relating to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Draft resolution on the World Climate Change Conference (A/C.2/57/L.91)

44. **Mr. Kára** (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, introduced the text based on informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.47, and drew attention to changes made in the second preambular paragraph. The new draft resolution had been agreed upon ad referendum on the basis of informal consultations; he recommended its adoption.

45. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution introduced by the Vice-Chairman would be issued under the symbol A/C.2/57/L.91.

46. The following countries had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.91: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

47. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.91 was adopted.*

48. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.47 was withdrawn.*

49. **Ms. Wang** Lin (China) said that her Government supported the offer by the Russian Federation to be the host of the World Climate Change Conference. China believed that the question of climate change should be approached in the context of the item on sustainable development. It also believed that climate change was a consequence of socio-economic development and that, therefore, the solution to the problem could be found only in the sphere of development. As to the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, she said that at the sixteenth session

of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice, a conclusion had been reached in that respect, which she hoped would be taken into account.

50. **Mr. Isakov** (Russian Federation) said that the negotiating process on that draft resolution had not been easy, but a constructive approach had finally prevailed, which had made it possible to arrive at a decision which was acceptable to everyone. That constructive atmosphere augured well for the success of the World Climate Change Conference, which would be held in Moscow, and at which the efforts of all the countries of the world in the area of climate change would be consolidated.

51. **Mr. Mizukami** (Japan) said that Japan supported the consensus on the draft resolution because it supported the initiative by the Russian Federation, which would promote active participation in the forthcoming World Climate Change Conference. However, it had reservations about the second preambular paragraph. Japan understood that that paragraph was based on the sixth preambular paragraph of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which had already been ratified by many Member States, and was concerned that the reference in the sixth preambular paragraph of the Convention to "all countries and their participation" had not been included in the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution. Japan had put forward the view that a common standard must be established which could be supported by all countries in order to deal with the problem of climate change.

52. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 87 (c).

(d) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.17, L.57 and L.89)

Draft resolutions concerning the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/C.2/57/L.17 and A/C.2/57/L.89)

53. **Mr. Kára** (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.89, based on informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.17, and recommended its adoption by consensus.

54. **The Chairman** drew attention to the statement (A/C.2/57/L.57) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.17, and said that it was not valid for the new draft resolution.

55. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.89 was adopted.*

56. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.17 was withdrawn.*

57. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Venezuela) said that the Group of 77 and China, with a view to achieving consensus, had agreed to delete paragraph 12, on the understanding that at the next regular session of the General Assembly, the necessary appropriation would be approved to cover the conference servicing costs of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which would take place in 2005. The Group of 77 and China hoped that that session would be included in the calendar of conferences and that the necessary resources would be allocated for holding it, since the Group of 77 and China believed that the cost-benefit relationship of the current system was appropriate; therefore, the deletion of paragraph 12 of the original draft resolution should not be interpreted in any other way. Lastly, the Group of 77 and China regretted the trend in recent forums of losing the ground gained in some concepts, such as enabling activities.

58. **Mr. Gupta** (Canada) said that it was Canada's understanding that the deletion of paragraph 12 of the original text did not mean that the United Nations would stop covering the conference servicing costs relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

59. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 87 (d).

(f) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.20, L.64 and L.79)

Draft resolutions on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.2/57/L.20 and L.64)

60. **Mr. Kára** (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.64, based on

informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20, and adopted ad referendum during those consultations.

61. **The Chairman**, referring to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.64, set forth in document A/C.2/57/L.79, said that paragraph 4 of that document should be deleted, and informed the Committee that the statement of programme budget implications was also valid for draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.64.

62. *Draft resolution A/C12/57/L.64 was adopted.*

63. **Mr. Tonnesen** (Norway), referring to paragraph 13 of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.64, said that it was important to strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit without delay, as an essential condition for the success of the international meeting, and strongly supported the Secretary-General's proposal to regularize the current post of Interregional Adviser for Small Island Developing States in the budget for the 2004-2005 biennium, since that was an appropriate way of strengthening the Unit.

64. **The Chairman**, after announcing that Norway's statement would be reflected in the Committee's records, read out a statement recalling, first, that in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, there was a decision to convene an international meeting in 2004. The Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services had indicated that in the calendar of conferences for 2004 there was a slot available at the end of August and the beginning of September during which that meeting could be held. Bearing in mind the desire of the Group of 77 and China not to lose that opportunity, and that of the Member States to set the date as soon as possible, he requested the Secretariat to bring the matter to the attention of the Committee on Conferences. Second, in paragraph 15 of the draft resolution, there was a decision to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States, including the least developed countries among them, to participate in the preparatory process. Since a similar fund established for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in 1994, had only about US$ 30,000 left in it, and the Group of 77 and China wanted those funds to be used to help those countries to participate in the meeting in 2004 and in its preparatory process, the Secretariat would soon be requesting Governments which had made contributions to that fund for permission to dispose of it.

65. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20 was withdrawn.*

66. **Ms. Sila** (Samoa), speaking also on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, but noted the omission of several factors which had emerged in the course of the discussions. Paragraph 5 should have included the dates for the international meeting to be held in Mauritius, rather than waiting for the next General Assembly. The Alliance of Small Island States would prefer that the meeting be held between 23 August and 3 September 2004 and that its duration be decided upon after further consultations among Member States and included in the 2003 resolution. The Alliance requested the Secretary-General to note that preference in his report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the resolution. As to paragraph 12, it hoped that the Secretary-General would bear in mind the proposal to regularize the post of Interregional Adviser and make the appropriate request in his budget proposal for the 2004-2005 biennium. The small island States would follow closely the development of that issue in the Fifth Committee. The Alliance welcomed the establishment of a voluntary fund for the participation of small island developing States and least developed countries in the international meeting but, aware that there were savings from the voluntary fund established under resolution 47/189 for the Barbados conference, believed that it would be more convenient to merge the two funds. The Alliance noted with appreciation the ability of the United Nations to convene the regional and interregional preparatory meetings from within existing resources, and hoped that there would be sufficient resources to enable two representatives from each small island developing State to participate in each meeting. It urged the Secretariat to maintain contact with the representatives of those States and their regional organizations to ensure that the preparations went smoothly and that the conference was held with the full and effective participation of all the small island developing States.

67. **Mr. Nino Gómez** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he would also have preferred it if the date of the conference had been indicated in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution; he requested that the statement read out by the Chairman be included in the Committee's report as guidance for delegations and the Secretariat.

68. **Mr. Taupo** (Tuvalu) supported the statement made by the representative of the Alliance of Small Island States and reiterated that the strengthening of the Small Islands Developing States Unit should be taken into account in the proposed budget for the 2004-2005 biennium. Tuvalu hoped that the Secretary-General would make the appropriate request to regularize the post of Interregional Adviser for Small Island Developing States. Moreover, the full and effective participation of small island developing States in the preparatory process was essential in order to deal with the problems and limitations affecting those countries; accordingly, assistance should be provided so that at least two delegates from each country or small island developing State could participate in the regional and interregional preparatory meetings.

69. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had completed its consideration of item 87 (f).

Agenda item 88: Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.25. L.27, L.85, L.88; A/57/125 and A/57/155)

Draft resolutions on pledging mechanisms and resource mobilization for operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/57/L.25 and L.88)

70. **Mr. van der Pluijm** (Belgium), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.88, based on informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.25.

71. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.88 was adopted.*

72. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.25 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolutions concerning the Human Development Report (A/C.2/57/L.27 and L.85)

73. **Mr. van der Pluijm** (Belgium), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/Cl2/57/L.85, based on informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.27, said that he was gratified that consensus had been reached on a text of such complexity.

74. Some corrections should be made to the text. First, the editors had abbreviated the title of the *Human Development Report*, so that it appeared almost everywhere as the *Report*; however, the document should always be given its full title. In paragraph 5, after the words "*Invites* the Executive Board" the words "of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund" should be added. Lastly, at the end of paragraph 6, after the words "report of the Economic and Social Council", the words "on its substantive session" should be added.

75. **Ms. Serwer** (United States of America) said that the United States had joined the consensus, but that did not mean that it was in total agreement with the final text. The United States did not support the notion that the *Human Development Report* was an independent entity and not a component of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

76. UNDP was fully accountable to the Executive Board and to Member States for all its activities, including its publications. In order to obtain the funds it needed to fund development effectively, UNDP must show results in its work. The *Human Development Report* did not always advance that goal, and in some cases the views it had expressed did not reflect the views of the United Nations and had given the appearance of putting UNDP and the United Nations at odds with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization.

77. At Monterrey and Johannesburg, the Member States had achieved consensus on how to finance development and achieve sustainable development. That consensus needed to be implemented by the United Nations and UNDP and reflected in the latter's publications. UNDP funding should not be used to finance reports that sought to undermine that global consensus.

78. The position of the United States should not be interpreted as an infringement on freedom of speech. The drafters of the *Human Development Report* were employees of UNDP and not independent authors, and UNDP was ultimately responsible for the views expressed by its employees.

79. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.85, as orally revised, was adopted.*

80. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.27 was withdrawn.*

81. **Ms. Szczepanski** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union and Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, expressed satisfaction that the General Assembly had confirmed

the independence of the authors of the *Human Development Report*.

82. The concerns expressed by some Member States about the consultation process of the *Human Development Report* should be considered by the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA with a view to improving the consultation process while fully respecting the editorial independence of the report. The European Union hoped that the Executive Board would define an improved consultation process within the context of the annual work plan. For that reason, the European Union did not envisage the issue being considered as a recurring agenda item of the Executive Board.

83. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should take note of the documents submitted in relation to the item, namely, the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the work of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/57/125) and the report of the Secretary-General on measures to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation (A/57/155).

84. *It was so decided.*

85. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 88.

Agenda item 89: Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.24 and L.87)

Draft resolutions concerning the Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (A/C.2/57/L.24 and L.87)

86. **Mr. van der Pluijm** (Belgium), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.87, based on informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.24.

87. **Mr. Nino Gómez** (Venezuela) said that in the English text, in the fourth line of paragraph 3, a comma was missing between the words "finance" and "trade".

88. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.87 was adopted.*

89. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.24 was withdrawn.*

90. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 89.

Agenda item 90: Training and research (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (*continued*)

Draft resolutions relating to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/C.2/57/L.35 and L.93)

91. **Mr. van der Pluijm** (Belgium), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.93, based on informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.35.

92. **The Chairman** drew attention to the statement (A/C.2/57/L.50) of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.35, and said that it was not valid for draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.93.

93. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.93 was adopted.*

94. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.35 was withdrawn.*

95. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 90.

Agenda item 94: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.29 and L.84)

Draft resolutions concerning globalization and interdependence (A/C.2/57/L.29 and L.84)

96. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.84, based on informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.29.

97. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.84 was adopted.*

98. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.29 was withdrawn.*

99. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 94.

Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)

Draft biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 2003-2004 (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.55; A/56/3 (Parts I and II) and A/57/354)

Draft resolution concerning the draft biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 2003-2004 (A/C.2/57/L.55)

100. **Mr. Xiong** (Chief, Documentation Programming and Monitoring Unit) introduced the draft biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 2003-2004 and said that some changes had been made. First, in accordance with the provisions of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.75, adopted by the Committee, the report of the Secretary-General on disaster reduction and vulnerability to natural disasters, which was included in the documentation relating to item 5 (e), would not be a separate document but a section of the report on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Second, the title of item 15 would be "International Conference on Financing for Development: follow-up". Lastly, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 12 of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.82, adopted by the Committee, a sub-item relating to the high-level dialogue on the implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development had been added to item 15. In response to the request in the same paragraph, various documents relating to the sub-item would be prepared and issued and would be included in the final version of document A/C.2/57/L.55.

101. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award (A/57/354).

Completion of the Committee's work

102. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that three major challenges had formed the backdrop of the Committee's work in 2002. First, the integration of the outcomes of the two United Nations conferences held in 2002 and the way in which the Committee's work could add value to international efforts. Second, the Monterrey Conference had not created any new intergovernmental mechanism for its follow-up and had called for innovative ways of engaging relevant stakeholders in the work of the United Nations. The Committee had taken an innovative approach to the follow-up of that conference by linking the spring meeting of the Economic and Social Council, the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly and the work of the Second Committee. Third, the Committee was moving away from the idea of convening new conferences or carrying out automatic five and ten year reviews of past conferences to a phase of implementation of commitments. The Committee had taken important steps to help shift towards implementation, notably by creating an ad hoc open-ended working group on the integrated follow-up of conferences.

103. The working group would provide a key opportunity to address challenges such as how to ensure that intergovernmental decisions had an impact on efforts at field level; how to continue helping the intergovernmental process to focus on implementation; how to rationalize the reporting architecture to United Nations intergovernmental bodies and the agendas of the General Assembly's plenary session and its Second and Third Committees; and how to best conduct reviews of conferences, and take a more integrated approach to them. Those were crucial issues for the work of the United Nations over the next few years.

104. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed appreciation to the members of the bureau of the Committee and especially to the Chairman and to Mr. Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and stressed the importance of the work of the fifty-seventh session, including important negotiations which had led to the elaboration of a new strategy for the fulfilment of the mandates entrusted to the Committee.

105. After an exchange of courtesies in which **Mr. Sahakov** (Armenia), on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, **Mr. Gebert** (Denmark), on behalf of the European Union, **Mr. Rojas** (Chile) and **Ms. Serwer** (United States of America) took part, the Chairman declared that the Committee had completed its work for the fifty-seventh session.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.